

The Secretariat under Stephen Wild: Canberra, Australia, 2006–2011

Stephen Wild

In 2005, on the suggestion of Anthony Seeger, then secretary general of the ICTM, I proposed to the Australian National University (ANU), where I was graduate convenor of the music programme in the School of Music, to take over the Secretariat from UCLA. This proposal was favourably received on condition that I take on extra administrative duties. The university agreed to provide a travel allowance which enabled me to travel abroad twice a year on ICTM business. An invitation by the university to host the ICTM Secretariat was presented to and accepted by the Executive Board at its meeting following the world conference in Sheffield, 2005. Initially offered for three years, the ANU hosting was extended by another two-and-a-half years in 2009.

The Secretariat was transferred from UCLA to ANU in January 2006. It was launched by the vice chancellor of the university, Ian Chubb, and was accompanied by performances of traditional music and reported by local and national media. Lee Anne Proberts, an employee of the university was appointed executive assistant.

The Secretariat was allocated an office within the ANU School of Music. In addition to the travel allowance and the office space, the university absorbed the cost of routine telephone, postal and internet services, and provided accounting services for ICTM's finances free of charge.

The Canberra Secretariat facilitated six Executive Board meetings and three world conferences (Vienna 2007, Durban 2009, St John's 2011). Executive Board meetings were held in association with each world conference, and in various places in the intervening years.

The first Board meeting was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in September 2006. At this meeting, the proposal for the Barbara Barnard Smith Travel Award and its associated seeding fund was accepted by the Board. The fund was established to assist a person whose participation in a world conference would contribute significantly to the conference programme and the recipient's professional career. Barbara Smith's generous donation was facilitated by Adrienne Kaeppler, president of ICTM and a former student of Smith's at the University of

Hawai'i. The first award was made for the Vienna world conference. Several subsequent donations to the fund (by Adrienne Kaeppler, Wim van Zanten, and myself) were received during the Canberra Secretariat.

At the Ljubljana meeting, the new secretariat flagged the directions in which it proposed to take the organization, in particular, taking advantage of the new technology in the digital era. Some of the new directions were:

1. Establishment of online membership subscriptions and renewals;
2. Establishment of a new website, which incorporated the Membership Directory;
3. Provision for electronic voting in elections;
4. Publication of the *Bulletin* in digital form only.

These measures have saved the organization much time and money. Another significant event at this Board meeting was the recognition of Taiwan as the first regional committee. This solution to the problem of recognising a Taiwanese committee was suggested by Jonathan Stock and later accepted by Wang Yaohua, then chair of the Chinese National Committee.

A symposium titled "Ethnomusicology and ethnochoreology in education: Issues in applied scholarship" was held after this Board meeting. It formed the basis of the recognition of a new Study Group on Applied Ethnomusicology by the Executive Board in the following year.

The 39th World Conference was held in Vienna, at the University of Music and Performing Arts, 4–11 July 2007. The programme chair was Vice President Wim van Zanten. The chair of the local arrangements committee was Gerlinde Haid.

Three new ICTM honorary members were elected at the General Assembly that year: Dieter Christensen (secretary general, 1981–2001), Anthony Seeger (president, 1997–1999; secretary general, 2001–2005), and Krister Malm (president, 1999–2005).

The next Executive Board meeting was held in Canberra, in February 2008. High on the agenda were



Figure 1. The ICTM Archive being launched at the National Library of Australia. Marcello Sorce Keller, Allan Maret, Aaron Corn, Svanibor Pettan, Joe Gumbula, Steve Wanta Jampijinpa Patrick, Stephen Wild, Carole Johnson, Adrienne Kaepler. Canberra, 2008 (photo courtesy of Svanibor Pettan).

the arrangements for the next world conference, in South Africa. At the time there was a sense of crisis about the viability of the conference. It had become apparent that the local arrangements committee had difficulty defining lines of responsibility and ensuring adequate funding for the conference. These were discussed at length, and the Board agreed to press on with the commitment. The problems were sufficiently resolved to clear the path during my visit to Durban later in that year. Of crucial importance was the guarantee of the vice chancellor of the host university to provide sufficient funds for the conference.

Associated with the Executive Board meeting were a symposium on intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and a public lecture on this subject by Wim van Zanten, ICTM representative on ICH matters. Several Executive Board members and other ICTM members were also speakers at the Memory of the World Regional Conference at the National Library of Australia (NLA).

Also associated with this conference was the launching of the new ICTM Archive hosted by NLA by ICTM President Adrienne Kaepler (figure 1). The library mounted an exhibition of selected items from the archive, highlighting a letter from our first president, Ralph Vaughn Williams.

The establishment of the ICTM Archive was agreed to in 2005 at a meeting between then Secretary General Anthony Seeger, Director General of the National

Library Jan Fullerton, NLA Music Curator Robyn Holmes, the Acting Manuscript Librarian, and myself. Over thirty cartons of records were sent from UCLA to the NLA, and ICTM paid for their cataloguing. The substantial catalogue which resulted is accessible on the NLA website.¹ At the end of the Canberra Secretariat in 2011, I catalogued and deposited a second tranche of documents into the ICTM Archive. These consisted of the records of the UCLA Secretariat.

The 40th world conference was held at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, 1–8 July 2009 (figure 2). Due to illness of the original appointee, Wim van Zanten took over at a late stage as programme chair, at short notice. The local arrangements committee was chaired by Ntombfikile Mazibuko, assisted by Patricia Opondo, ICTM Executive Board member.

An unforgettable part of the conference was the indigenous performances organized by Opondo. There was also an exhibition of African musical instruments. The keynote address was delivered by Andrew Tracey, son of pioneer ethnomusicologist Hugh Tracey, reminding us of their key role in the study of African music, and the establishment of the International Library of African Music.

The next Executive Board meetings were held at Memorial University, St John's, Canada, in 2010 and 2011. Also held in association with the 2010 Executive

¹ <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-415329506/findingaid>.



Figure 2. Stephen Wild, Adrienne Kaeppler, and Lee Anne Proberts in South Africa for the world conference. Durban, 2009 (photo courtesy of Lee Anne Proberts).

Board meeting was the symposium on music, dance, and place at the university.

Another key event in 2010 was the transfer of the *Yearbook* institutional subscriptions management to JSTOR, a not-for-profit organization based in New York. Under the new agreement called the Current Scholarship Program, finalized by me in New York on the way to St John's, JSTOR would also provide electronic access to current issues of the *Yearbook*. This was endorsed by the Executive Board at its 2010 meeting.

The 41st world conference was held at Memorial University, 13–19 July 2011. The programme chair was Salwa El-Shawan Castelo-Branco, with Beverley Diamond and Kati Szego as co-chairs of the local arrangements committee. Among the highlights of the conference was an exhibition on the research of Maud Karpeles, founding secretary of the Council, on traditional music and dance of Newfoundland. Other highlights of the conference were the presence of a large African delegation and an African performance troupe brought by Patricia Opondo.

During the Canberra Secretariat, study groups flourished and multiplied. New study groups recognized were as follows:

1. East Asian Historical Musical Sources (2006),
2. Musics of East Asia (2006),
3. Music of the Turkic-speaking World (2006),
4. Applied Ethnomusicology (2007),
5. Music and Dance in Southeastern Europe (2008),

6. Multipart Music (2009),
7. Performing Arts of Southeast Asia (2009),
8. African Musics (2011).

Colloquia held during the Canberra Secretariat period were:

1. "Emerging musical identities: View from across the Atlantic," Wesleyan University, Middletown, USA, May 2006;
2. "Indigenous music and dance as cultural property," University of Toronto, Canada, May 2008;
3. "Musical exodus: Al-Andalus and its Jewish diasporas," Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, UK, July 2008;
4. "One common thread: A colloquium on the musical expression of loss and bereavement," Australian National University, National Library of Australia, and National Folk Festival, Canberra, April 2011.

Six new national/regional committees were recognized: Taiwan (2006), Croatia (2007), India (2007), Australia/New Zealand (2011), Brazil (2011), and FYR Macedonia (2011). As of October 2011, there were a total of thirty-eight national and regional committees.

Seven countries joined the ranks of liaison officers between 2006 and 2011: Azerbaijan, Belgium, Denmark, Ivory Coast, Laos, South Africa, and Sri Lanka. As of October 2011, the number of countries in the liaison-officer network was thirty-seven.

A final note in this account of the Canberra Secretariat concerns the Council's finances. During this time the

global financial crisis of 2008–2009 occurred, and membership renewals declined significantly in these two years. Although spending remained within the approved budget, I reported an operational deficit of about 10% for 2008 at the General Assembly in 2009. A further decline in revenue occurred in 2009. The situation had stabilized by the time of the 2011 General Assembly. Although the financial cushion of about one year's revenue and expenditure had been somewhat depleted, the Council's financial liquidity was never in danger, and we were able to hand over to the next Secretariat (Ljubljana) with a modest capital base. This was despite the ANU's unexpected requirement that ICTM bear the cost of the executive assistant's substantial severance payment according to Australian employment law.